

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY BISSAU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0152
INFO AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY DAKAR

C O N F I D E N T I A L BISSAU 0203

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP, PU, PFOR, CV
SUBJECT: GUINEA-BISSAU: PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS

REF: BISSAU 0177

1. PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS TOOK PLACE NOVEMBER 27. MY REMARKS AT PRESENTATION WERE THOSE DRAFTED IN DEPARTMENT BEFORE MY DEPARTURE. WE ADDED TO PORTUGUESE TEXT PHRASE OMITTED IN TRANSLATION FROM ENGLISH, "AN AFRICA FREE OF GREAT POWER, RIVALRY OR CONFLICT". FOLLOWING CREDENTIALS CEREMONY, I HAD SEMI-PRIVATE MEETING WITH PRESIDENT THAT LASTED ABOUT TWENTY MINUTES. COMMISSIONER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, COMMISSIONER OF NATIONAL EDUCATION AND CULTURE, COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE AND SEVERAL OTHER GOGB OFFICIALS WERE PRESENT BUT DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN OUR TALK. BECAUSE OF SEATING ARRANGEMENT MOST OF THEM WERE NOT WITHIN EARSHOT.

2. PRESIDENT WELCOMED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A U.S. EMBASSY IN BISSAU AND SEEMED WELL INFORMED ON OUR INCIPIENT AID PROGRAM. HE OBSERVED THAT USG AND GOGB DID NOT ALWAYS SHARE THE SAME VIEW ON A NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL ISSUES, BUT THAT THIS SHOULD NOT OBSTRUCT THE DEVELOPMENT OF FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.
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PRESIDENT NOTED THAT GUINEA-BISSAU HAD BUILT-UP A NUMBER OF

INTERNATIONAL TIES DURING ITS LIBERATION STRUGGLE. I POINTED OUT THAT ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT ASPECTS OF OUR MISSION IN BISSAU WAS A FULL AND FRANK EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON INTERNATIONAL ISSUES. I MENTIONED THAT AT THE TOP OF MY LIST OF ISSUES WAS THE PUERTO RICAN QUESTION RAISED AT THE U.N. I NOTED THAT I HAD ALREADY MENTIONED THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS QUESTION TO THE U.S. TO THE COMMISSIONER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AT AN EARLIER MEETING (SEE BELOW). THE PRESIDENT DID NOT RAISE ANY SPECIFIC ISSUES NOR DID I AT THIS OUR FIRST MEETING.

3. THE DAY PRECEDING THE CREDENTIALS CEREMONY, I HAD A MEETING WITH COMMISSIONER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, VICTOR SAUDE MARIA. MEETING WAS RELAXED, FRIENDLY AND CHATTY. ONLY SIGNIFICANT POINT COMMISSIONER MADE WAS HIS INDIRECT ALLUSION TO U.S. POSITION DURING WAR OF LIBERATION. COMMISSIONER NOTED THAT AMILCAR CABRAL HAD OFTEN SAID THAT WHILE HE (CABRAL) DID NOT AGREE WITH USG STANCE DURING WAR, HE HAD NO QUARREL WITH THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. THE COMMISSIONER'S MESSAGE WAS CLEARLY "LET BYGONES BY BYGONES".

4. DURING MEETING, I REFERRED TO COMMISSIONER'S VISIT WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY SCHAUFELER AT UN IN MID-OCTOBER. AS THE ISSUE OF PUERTO RICO HAD BEEN RAISED AT THAT MEETING, I TOLD COMMISSIONER THAT I LOOKED FORWARD TO AN EARLY MEETING WITH HIM ON THIS SUBJECT IN ORDER TO PROVIDE FULL HISTORICAL BACKGROUND AS WELL AS SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS OF RECENT NOVEMBER ELECTIONS.

5. COMMENT: RECEPTION TO OPENING OF AMBASSADORIAL USG REPRESENTATION WAS WARMLY RECEIVED IN BOTH CAPE VERDE AND GUINEA-BISSAU. YET RATHER DIFFERENT NOTES WERE STRUCK BY PRESIDENT OF EACH COUNTRY. WHEREAS PRESIDENT PEREIRA EMPHATICALLY STRESSED CAPE VERDE'S PRAGMATIC OPEN FOREIGN POLICY AND DID NOT ALLUDE TO PAST HISTORY EXCEPT TO STRESS LONG-EXISTING TIES (SEE REFTEL), PRESIDENT CABRAL MENTIONED OUR COUNTRIES' VARYING VIEWPOINTS AND GUINEA-BISSAU'S LONGER-STANDING RELATIONSHIPS WITH "OTHER COUNTRIES" NOT SPECIFIED BUT CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD. GUINEA-BISSAU'S POSITION NEEDS TO BE PROBED AND ASSESSED MUCH FURTHER BEFORE WE HAVE A GOOD UNDERSTANDING OF ITS COMPONENTS. ON THE OTHER HAND, IT IS DIFFICULT TO IGNORE THE DIRECTNESS AND CLARITY OF CAPE VERDE'S POSITION AS
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EXPRESSED BY PRESIDENT PEREIRA.

6. MY IMPRESSION IS THAT CAPE VERDE CLEARLY SEES WHERE ITS PRESENT AND FUTURE SUPPORT IS LIKELY TO COME FROM AND IS READY TO ACT IN ITS OWN SELF-INTEREST TO NURTURE THAT SUPPORT. MY IMPRESSIONS WERE CONFIRMED BY SIR ROBERT JACKSON OF UNDP WHOSE VISIT TO CAPE VERDE COINCIDED WITH MINE. SIR ROBERT TOLD ME THAT HE WOULD BE RECOMMENDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SEPARATE

UNDP RESREP IN CAPE VERDE (PROGRAM CURRENTLY RESPONSIBILITY
OF RESREP IN BISSAU). HE IS MAKING THIS RECOMMENDATION BECAUSE
HE FEELS GOCV IS READY TO EMBARK ON A "SEPARATIST" FOREIGN POLICY
COURSE FROM ITS SISTER-PAIGC STATE, GUINEA-BISSAU. SIR ROBERT
INDICATED (AND WE HEARD THE SAME FROM ANOTHER SOURCE IN PRAIA)
THAT GOCV HAS MADE DECISION TO OPEN A MISSION AT THE UN HEADED
BY AN AMBASSADOR. SUCH A DECISION COULD PORTEND A MORE
INDEPENDENT AND PRAGMATIC UN COURSE FOR CAPE VERDE THAN
HITHERTO. END COMMENT.
WELLS

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